

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): An object data receiving unit-for-use in a functional object imaging system, comprising:

a functional object data storage section for storing functional object data corresponding to functional objects, the functional object data including imaging data for imaging each of the functional objects in a virtual space, a first name identifier allocated to a functional object, a second name identifier for indicating a compatible functional object capable of matching the functional object, and functional controlling data for producing a function of the compatible functional object when the functional object is matched to the compatible functional object indicated by the second name identifier;

an object control section for imaging each functional object based on imaging data;

an input receiving section for receiving a selective input of a plural of the functional objects comprising a first functional object and a second functional object; and

an automatic editor section for determining if the first functional object selected can be matched to the second functional object selected by comparing the second name identifier included in the functional object data related to the first functional object with the first name identifier included in the functional object data related to the second functional object;

an object data receiving section for receiving functional object data as recited in claim 1; and

an-wherein, when the first functional object can be matched to the second functional object, the object control section joins the first functional object to the second functional object operative to retrieve and extract a functional object having a predetermined relation to one functional object imaged in a virtual space-based on the object data received for the first functional object, and then interpret function-interprets functional control data on the one-first functional object and-to execute control, either directly or indirectly, of imaging data on the second functional object thus extracted based on the interpretation-thus made to achieve function

control over the extracted functional object in the virtual space when a name identifier of the extracted functional object has a predetermined relation to a second name identifier of the one functional object.

Claim 13 (original): The object data receiving unit in accordance with claim 12, further comprising a recording section for recording a history of operation having been performed on the unit to image functional resources as the functional objects in the virtual space and a phenomenon having occurred in the virtual space.

Claim 14 (original): The object data receiving unit in accordance with claim 13, further comprising a recorded data transmitting section for externally transmitting data recorded by the recording section.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The object data receiving unit in accordance with claim 12, further comprising an indicator data calculating section for calculating an indicator allowing a user to operate the unit efficiently based on a history of operation having been performed on the unit to image functional resources as the functional objects in the virtual space and a phenomenon having occurred in the virtual space.

Claim 16 (original): The object data receiving unit in accordance with claim 15, wherein the indicator is calculated based on data on utilization of the object data receiving unit including utilization frequencies within a fixed period and a total utilization time.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The object data receiving unit in accordance with claim 12, further comprising an automatic editor section for coupling a plurality of functional objects in the virtual space together by means of respective joints thereof when the plurality of functional objects have a predetermined relation therebetween.

Claim 18 (currently amended): An object data transmitting unit for use in a functional object imaging system, which is connected to an object data receiving unit as recited in claims 12 for communication, comprising:

a specification data receiving section for receiving specification data comprising data on specifications of a required article, service or analog;

an object data forming section for forming object data on all or part of plural functional objects based on the specification data, the plural functional objects being capable of exhibiting a function satisfying the specifications in a virtual space when combined together; and

an object data transmitting section for transmitting the object data formed by the object data forming section.

Claim 19 (original): The object data transmitting unit in accordance with claim 18, further comprising a unit control data storage section for storing unit control data items capable of being added, deleted and modified independently of imaging data, plural ones of which form function control data, wherein the object data forming section is operative to fetch the plural ones of the unit control data items from the unit control data storage section based on the specification data and combine the unit control data items together to form the function control data.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The object data transmitting unit in accordance with claim 18, wherein each of the unit control data items includes a name identifier of an applicable functional object, while the object data forming section is operative to fetch a unit control data item including a name identifier matching a name identifier of a functional object as a subject of control.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The object data transmitting unit in accordance with claim 18, wherein the functional object represents production equipment for producing a predetermined article to be produced or sold.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The object data transmitting unit in accordance with claim 18, wherein the functional object represents a predetermined article to be produced or sold.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The object data transmitting unit in accordance with claim 18, wherein the functional object represents personnel including part-time workers and employees

stationed in a layout space of a factory, office or house, or an article including industrial machines, office equipment and furniture disposed in the layout space.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A managing unit for use in a functional object imaging system, which is connected to an object data receiving unit as recited in claim 12 for communication, comprising a recorded data receiving section for receiving data on utilization of functional objects at the object data receiving unit.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A functional object imaging system comprising an object data receiving unit as recited in claim 12; ~~and connected to an object data transmitting unit as recited in claim 18 comprising:~~

a specification data receiving section for receiving specification data comprising data on specifications of a required article, service or analog;

an object data forming section for forming object data on all or part of plural functional objects based on the specification data, the plural functional objects being capable of exhibiting a function satisfying the specifications in a virtual space when combined together; and

an object data transmitting section for transmitting the object data formed by the object data forming section.,

at least one of which is provided with a charging management section for conducting processing related to charging for utilization of functional objects.